

VZCZCXRO8662
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #1688 1080234
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 180234Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2733
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0719
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4252
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6630
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1619
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2704
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3963
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001688

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - US GUN VIOLENCE - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: All Wednesday morning papers front-paged the assassination of Nagasaki Mayor Ichio Ito, who was shot to death by a mobster on Tuesday evening. The dailies also front-paged the police finding that a student from South Korea was the gunman behind Monday's massacre at Virginia Tech.

1. "Virginia Tech Massacre: Need to Strengthen Gun Control" The liberal Asahi editorialized (4/18): "The massacre Monday at Virginia Tech was the deadliest shooting rampage in modern US history, again showing that gun-related tragedies can occur anywhere in the US.... The motive for the shooting is not immediately known, because the suspect, believed to be a South Korean student, killed himself.... What worries us is that the suspect came from South Korea.... We hope that this incident will not trigger racial animosity toward people of Asian origin.... Although the Brady Act, which restricts gun purchases, went into effect in 1993, it has not done anything to decrease the number of guns.... Observers note that there has been little progress on gun control due to the lobbying efforts of the National Rifle Association (NRA). The NRA, which has a membership of about 3 million gun enthusiasts, many of them well-to-do Americans, continues to exert a tremendous influence in the political arena. It is the common wish of people around the world, many of whom have the opportunity to visit the country, that the US would become a safer place. It would also be disadvantageous for the US, a nation that boasts of itself as a model of freedom and democracy, to show to the world a society wracked by gun violence. We hope that the USG, Congress, and the American people will join hands to tackle the issue of gun control."

